



Dear Friends,

We are now in week eight of the 2022 Legislative Session. It is with great honor that I announce that my bills [HB 1215](#) Abandoned & Historic Cemeteries and [HB 649](#) Transfers in Divorce have passed through all of their committee stops as of last week. They are now headed to the House floor.

This past week was challenging as two controversial bills that, in my opinion, will severely limit the freedoms of Floridians passed the House floor. I believe HB 7 and HB 1557 both restrict teachers from educating children on history of African-American communities accurately and discussing LGBTQ+ communities. If you missed my debate on these bills, please click [here](#) to watch.

Your input on bills introduced in the legislature is the most essential part of the process. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of assistance by calling (850) 717-5063 or emailing me at [fentrice.driskell@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:fentrice.driskell@myfloridahouse.gov).

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fentrice D. Driskell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fentrice Driskell  
Florida State Representative

# UPCOMING MEETINGS SESSION WEEK 8



## MONDAY

10:30 AM - Appropriations Committee

3:30 PM - Judiciary Committee

## TUESDAY - FRIDAY

10 AM - Session

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**FENTRICE  
DRISKELL**  
SERVING FLORIDA STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 63



Two of my committees met this week. Click [here](#) to watch this week's Appropriations Committee and [here](#) for this week's Judiciary Committee Meeting. Additionally, the House will convene for Session on Tuesday through Friday, during which time we will take a final vote on several bills. Be sure to tune in to the [Florida Channel](#) to watch live!

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### HB 1215 - Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries

Passed Final Committee

- Establishes the Office of Historic Cemeteries within the Division of Historic Resources
- Creates the Historic Cemeteries Program Advisory Council to provide guidance and recommendations to the Division
- Establishes meaningful curriculum to engage students and funds research in universities, nonprofits and other qualified institutions



    
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### HB 649 - Transfers in Divorce

Passed Third Committee

- Clarifies law regarding IRA and 401(k) transfers in divorce
- Specifies that certain interests are exempt from claims of creditors upon being awarded or received
- Provides retroactive applicability



    
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I am proud to announce that two of my bills unanimously passed through all of their committees and will be moving on to the House floor.

**HB 1215** creates a dedicated Office of Historic Cemeteries to identify and promote the preservation of abandoned African-American cemeteries and directs the Department of Education to develop meaningful curriculum relating to instructional education about abandoned and historic cemeteries in Florida. It passed through its third committee last week, the State Affairs Committee.

**HB 649** specifies that certain interests received by transferees after divorce are exempt from claims of creditors upon being awarded or received. It passed through its third committee,



# REP. FENTRICE DRISKELL'S YES VOTES

## **HB 79 - Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids for Children**

Requires certain individual health insurance policies and health maintenance contracts to provide coverage for hearing aids for children 21 years of age or younger

## **HB 557 - Fire Investigator Cancer Treatment Benefits**

Revises the definition of the term "firefighter" for the purpose of expanding eligibility for certain cancer treatment benefits

## **HB 1143 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

Provides greater protections for minors facing involuntary examination



There have been several great bills that have passed through my committees these past couple of weeks. They will be a saving grace to many Floridians throughout the state. I'm happy to have voted in favor of them.



My longtime friend and Pastor Larry Roundtree of New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Tampa, joined us at the Capitol to serve as Minister of the Day. He delivered the opening prayer for the Florida House on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Thank you, Pastor Roundtree, for joining us and blessing our week!



This past week, I joined Brandon Wolf from Equality Florida and host, Joy Reid, on The ReidOut on MNSBC. Along with other controversial bills this session, we primarily discussed HB 1557 — what is referred to as the "Don't Say Gay Bill" and the detrimental effects I believe it will have on LGBTQ+ Floridians, especially LGBTQ+ youth.

In case you missed it, click [here](#) to watch the segment.



Moffitt Days at The Capitol was a success! It was great to hear from their leadership and reinforce my office's commitment to their mission to contribute to the prevention and cure of cancer.



My office met with members of the Alliance for Safety and Justice during week 7 - all of whom have lost family members to gun violence. I am so thankful for their vulnerability in their advocacy supporting families who've suffered such grave losses to gun violence.



## Hillsborough County Florida

Rental and Utility Assistance will again be available for Hillsborough County and City of Tampa residents.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will soon be reopening and accepting new applications. The program has expanded and now includes future rental payments and help with additional fees on a case-by-case basis.

Click [here](#) for assistance.



If you are having trouble with the DEO, my office is here to help. Please fill out the following Constituent Request Form by clicking [here](#) and completing the form with the appropriate

information.

In the case of an urgent unemployment or other constituent requests, please also email my Legislative Aide Lucile Malone at [lucile.malone@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:lucile.malone@myfloridahouse.gov).

### **IMPORTANT COVID-19 CONTACTS**

To find a free COVID-19 test near you [click here](#).

For a full list of vaccine and booster shot locations in your area [click here](#).

Rental and Utility Assistance is still available for residents through Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program has been expanded to include future rental payments and help with additional fees on a case-by-case basis. Click [here](#) for assistance.

Follow [@HealthyFla](#) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for alerts. The Florida Department of Health has established a COVID-19 Call Center available 24/7. The phone number is [1-866-779-6121](tel:1-866-779-6121) and the email is [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

The Center for Disease Control is regularly updating its website with the latest data and research on the coronavirus: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html).

The Florida Department of Education is providing updates on childcare programs and K-12 schools to plan, prepare, and respond to the coronavirus: [www.fldoe.org/em-response/](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/).

Florida Attorney General Price Gouging Hotline - [\(866\) 966-7226](tel:866-966-7226)

Webpage:

[http://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/0/308348F71208C29085256EED00604673?](http://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/0/308348F71208C29085256EED00604673?OpenDocument)  
[OpenDocument](#).

Feeling in despair or suicidal? Call [211](tel:211) or the National Suicide Hotline at [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255).

**To report an emergency - 911**

## **State Representative Fentrice Driskell District 63**

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**Follow Rep. Driskell on**



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